God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.
—1 Thessalonians 5:24
Throughout the 25 years of MedSend’s ministry, we’ve had countless occasions to extol God’s goodness. But on this special anniversary, we’re delighted to pause and reflect more deeply on what God has done through MedSend. While we can’t pack a quarter-century into 12 pages, I think you will agree from this glimpse that MedSend’s far-reaching impact is incredible. Also remarkable is our Lord’s faithfulness in calling such exceptional people to serve MedSend, from our outstanding board and committed grant recipients to our faithful supporters like you. **Without your prayers and gifts, there would be no MedSend.**

For a 25 years, God’s faithfulness to MedSend has prevailed—despite naysayers, terrorists and economic downturns. That’s another reason why this retrospective is so important. When we remember the amazing things God has done for us in the past, it fills us with the faith we need to face the new challenges God has set before us.

Those challenges are daunting. Last year, Christians were the most persecuted religious group across the globe. For MedSend healthcare professionals, that means that the world grows more hostile and hazardous daily. Yet even as risks increase, so does the number of qualified men and women from the U.S. and developing countries who are eager to answer God’s call to serve as healthcare missionaries. As always, many of them need our help—and we thank God and you for giving us the privilege of providing it!

We believe that God is calling MedSend to play a key role in extending His love through global healthcare around the world—while we still can. Like our founders, we pledge to meet whatever new challenges He calls us to with prayer, reliance on God and resolute action. **Will you prayerfully stand with us in this commitment?**

For now, please celebrate with us some of the amazing ways God has blessed MedSend in the past 25 years. May this record of His enduring faithfulness inspire us with faith as we continue to serve Him in the days ahead.

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"I count it one of the great gifts of my life that I was the first Project MedSend recipient in 1995 and that allowed me to go into ministry much earlier than I could have ever anticipated. I still tell that story over and over to medical students who want to be in missions as evidence of God’s faithfulness in helping me with finances to do what I thought I was called to do."

— Martha Carlough, MD, MPH, Professor of Family Medicine and Director of the Office of International Activities at UNC/Chapel Hill. As MedSend’s first grant recipient, Dr. Carlough served in Nepal from 1995-2005.
Dr. Daniel Fountain was at his wit’s end. He had flown to Texas on that December day in 1987 to pitch an idea to the organization now known as the Christian Medical and Dental Associations (CMDA). His question: Would CMDA establish a $10 million fund and use the interest to pay off the education-related debts of healthcare professionals willing to serve in cross-cultural missions?

Dan’s idea was birthed in the hardscrabble reality of the mission field, where he and his wife, Miriam, a nurse, had already served for 25 years.

“During the ’70s and ’80s, we were desperate to get more missionary doctors and nurses, yet none came,” he explained. “The almost universal response was, ‘I would like to come, but I owe too much money from my educational loans. When I pay those off in a few years, I may come.’ None ever did.”

Like everyone else Dan had approached, the folks at CMDA rejected his idea.

“I left the meeting feeling terrible,” he recalled. He didn’t know the meeting’s minutes had been faxed to CMDA’s president Dr. David Topazian, a retired oral and maxillofacial surgeon then serving as a missionary in Venezuela, along with his wife, Deidre. Dan’s idea struck a chord with Dave, who was concerned about the same issue. He immediately faxed a response to CMDA’s CEO Hal Habecker, “Hal, this is something CMDA has got to deal with. Don’t drop it.”

Within months, a CMDA ad hoc committee that included Dan and Dave met to find a solution. After much prayer, research and discussion, they came up with the bold idea of forming an organization that would help get long-term healthcare missionaries to the field faster by awarding grants to pay off their educational loans as they served. What’s more, “Project MedSend” would partner with established sending agencies to get the job done.

In August 1992, Project MedSend was incorporated as a nonprofit. Early in 1993, Dave and Deidre Topazian left Venezuela, borrowed a car, and spent two months driving across the country to share the MedSend concept with 30 mission boards. As a result, 16 sending agencies accepted the invitation to become “MedSend Associates.” They met in Texas later that year to help develop policies and procedures—and to contribute MedSend’s first operating budget!

In 1994, MedSend’s board met for the first time and named Dave Topazian as president. They approved a business plan with the stated goal of “bringing glory to God” by providing five new grants to healthcare professionals each year for a projected total of 30 by 2000.

With all the elements in place, questions remained: Would the MedSend concept work? Would people support the ministry? Would God bless MedSend? As you’ll see in the next pages, all three questions were quickly answered with a resounding “YES!”

In fact, by the year 2000, 105 grants had been quickly answered with a resounding “YES!”

“MedSend’s founders saw something that many of us didn’t earlier on: Mobilizing Christian surgeons, physicians and dentists to go overseas is really a branch of the ministry of the Church, extending its arm of love and concern for our neighbors, our fellow individuals of the world. MedSend is a very significant new approach that needs the support of people across the nation. It is making a difference and I trust that in the days to come, it will expand its outreach.”

— Dr. Ted Engstrom, President Emeritus of World Vision, served on MedSend’s Board of Reference until his death in 2006. (quoted in 1998)

“Project MedSend is the only organization in the country that provides a way for healthcare professionals who have educational debt to serve the Lord in medical missions without the barrier of saying, ‘I can’t do it because I owe too much money.’”

— Dr. C. Everett Koop, former U.S. Surgeon General, served on MedSend’s Board of Reference until his death in 2013. (quoted in 1999)

“I appreciate MedSend for giving more health professionals the opportunity to serve on the mission field.”

— Dr. Paul Brand, missionary surgeon renowned for his pioneering research in leprosy, served on MedSend’s Board of Reference until his death in 2003. (quoted in 1999)
CALLED TO LAUNCH
"If we can help, let us know."

In response to that offer from veteran Nepal medical missionaries Drs. Tom and Cynthia Hale, MedSend began its popular “information dinners” to introduce the ministry to thousands across the U.S. From 1995-2002, MedSend held 125 dinners featuring performances by Cynthia, a concert pianist. Following dinner, the Hales would speak about healthcare missions and Dave Topazian would introduce MedSend.

Even the best healthcare education is not enough to ensure success on the mission field. In addition to having limited access to the latest tools and technology, healthcare missionaries can have difficulty adjusting to grinding poverty, cultural differences and alternative world views. For this reason, MedSend’s Board has required and subsidized intensive, multi-day courses in community health education and whole-person care geared especially for healthcare missionaries. Dan Fountain drew upon his vast missions experience to lead many of MedSend’s popular training workshops for grant recipients until his death in 2013.

Over the years, MedSend has been blessed with professionally talented and spiritually committed Board members, as well as many volunteer specialists and friends who provided hospitality for ministry events and traveling staff.

“Missionaries use things up, wear things out, make things do or do without.”

This was and is part of MedSend’s financial counsel to prospective healthcare missionaries. The son of immigrants who stressed careful stewardship of financial resources, Dave Topazian helped make financial counseling an important part of MedSend’s ministry.

Symbolic of the frugality that characterizes missionaries—and MedSend—the early MedSend office operated from the Topazians’ basement. Dave is shown working with Debbie Gaboriault Rose, JD, whom he has called “one of God’s great gifts to MedSend.” Debbie served as MedSend’s office manager from 1995 to 2005, leaving an indelible imprint by establishing systems and procedures—and an attitude of cheerful, loving service.

Left: Dan Fountain at a workshop with trainees Derek and Lauren Webber.
“Our newly opened maternity ward has brought hope and healing to so many women and infants. We have now had over 130 infants born at the hospital and have cared for over 200 women. We have had 10-15 infants that have required resuscitation and would have not survived if they had been born in their villages with the help of traditional birth attendants.

“The other day a woman came to the maternity ward to deliver her baby and said that originally she was going to deliver in her village, but she changed her mind because she learned that there are Christian doctors and nurses at our hospital. Twice a week she would pass by the hospital and could hear the clinic staff and patients singing at one of the lunchtime devotionals. Many others are now coming because women who delivered at the hospital are telling other people in their villages about the great care they have received from a healthcare team who loves God.”

Since 1992, MedSend has awarded more than $16 million in grants to release more than 575 healthcare professionals to serve where God has called them. Today, MedSend healthcare professionals bring compassionate care and God’s love to vulnerable people in 75 nations—including countries that restrict access to other Christian workers. Grant recipients staff and run mission hospitals and rural clinics, and are involved in training and mentoring Christian nationals as caregivers. Through extensive involvement in community health programs, many are working to transform entire communities.

“Estimation based on information provided in the last 25 years.
CALLED TO LASTING CHANGE

“A humongous thank you to MedSend donors. Because of you, MedSend is having a huge impact in the world.”
— Katherine Welch, MD
Director of Relentless

MEDSEND DISTINCTIVE: LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

We’re not exaggerating when we say that as career missionaries, MedSend healthcare professionals are uniquely positioned to bring genuine transformative change to the individuals and communities they serve. Here are a few examples of ministries that have been established by MedSend grant recipients:

HAITI – Shortly after arriving in Haiti, Rachael Courter, RN, gave someone an OTC medication. The next morning, she and her husband, James, a physical therapist and MedSend grant recipient, awoke to find hundreds of people outside waiting for medical care. With only their family’s medications and a stethoscope, the Courters began seeing patients on their front porch. Today, the clinic they founded has cared for over 40,000 patients and is a permanent, self-sustaining ministry staffed by Haitian professionals.

KENYA – What began as a mobile outreach to a Kenyan tribe with little access to healthcare, clean water or the gospel, has grown into a permanent health center. “I am excited about the huge opportunities to do what Christ asked by preaching the kingdom of God and healing the sick,” says MedSend physician and clinic founder Dr. Kyle Jones, DO. Also in Kenya, current grant recipient Michelle Kiprop, RN, MSN, FNP, founded and directs Hope Matters International, which cares for hundreds each month in its medical clinic, and also includes community outreach and orphan care programs.

ROMANIA – Raegan Glugosh, RN, became a grant recipient in 2000 and founded Touched Romania in 2005 to help abandoned infants. The ministry gives pregnant mothers and high-risk babies emotional, material and spiritual support. It offers a residential maternal center and works with foster families, hospitals and institutions.

HONDURAS AND HAITI – Mission Lazarus, cofounded by MedSend grant recipient Allison Brown, APRN, BC, serves Hondurans in need through two medical clinics, a child nutrition program, a family health program, early education centers, a children’s home and more. Mission Lazarus also has programs in Haiti.

MALAWI – MedSend physician Dr. Perry Jansen founded Partners in Hope (PIH), Malawi, which provides free HIV/AIDS care to more than 3,000 people each month, plus innovative HIV prevention, testing and counseling programs. PIH was cited by Malawi for its demonstrated impact on the HIV/AIDS epidemic there.

Dr. Katherine Welch founded Relentless to assist organizations that fight human trafficking and slavery. Relentless provides healthcare training for anti-trafficking workers and holds medical clinics for trafficking victims.

Since 2000, Dr. Welch has been serving in Asia, thanks to her MedSend grant—paid in full almost a decade ago!

CALLED TO RESCUE

MedSend grant recipients live among those they serve, so in addition to providing continuing care, they are often among the first to provide relief services when natural disasters strike, whether earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis or epidemics. Some of the relief efforts they have contributed to include:

2016 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Ecuador
2015 Gorkha Earthquake in Nepal
2014-2016 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa
2013 Super Typhoon Yolanda in Philippines
2012 Hurricane Sandy in Staten Island
2010 Earthquake in Haiti
2004 Earthquake and Tsunami in Indonesia

MedSend physician assistant James Courter provides medical relief after 2010 Haiti earthquake.

Dr. Joe Martin cares for victim of 2016 earthquake in Ecuador.
“More families accepted the Lord and were baptized last month. Many I had never even met before, but for some time now, they had been watching the new believers to see what would happen to them once they took down their altars and became Christians. When they saw the peace and change in their families and heard about Almighty God who can save, they decided to believe and follow Christ too.”

— L.G.*, PA, community health worker in Asia

* Name withheld for security reasons.

MORE MEDSEND DISTINCTIVES

All MedSend healthcare professionals are trained in and encouraged to practice:

WHOLE-PERSON CARE. A scientifically and biblically-based approach to treating the whole person—body, mind and spirit—that combines the best of medical care, psycho-social care, and spiritual care.

COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT. This approach identifies common health problems that come from certain behaviors. It uses cultural dynamics and cross-cultural communication to motivate changes in community practices and behaviors related to health, nutrition and agriculture. The biblical world view provides the basic principles of health and healthy behavior and gives core cultural values important for community development.

“I am finding more and more that I have the opportunity to educate about and be a voice for people with disabilities here. At least twice per week, I get the chance to talk with families about how their children with hearing loss or other disabilities have hope beyond what their culture says. So many parents come to me without hope, and I get the chance to pray with them and be a support for them.”

— Stephanie Cox, AudD, audiologist serving in Africa
CALLED TO THE DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS

Dr. Tom Little

August 5, 2010, lives in MedSend infamy. On that day, MedSend grant recipient and optometrist Dr. Tom Little was slain by the Taliban with nine members of his medical team—doctors, nurses and support personnel—while returning from a mobile health clinic in a remote area of Afghanistan. Even as we joined the world in mourning for this brave man and his colleagues, his death drove home a sobering fact: MedSend healthcare professionals are called to difficult—and increasingly dangerous—assignments.

MedSend healthcare professionals are eager to serve in these areas despite the risks. They know that healthcare professionals are welcomed in areas that are off-limits to other Christian workers. That’s why global healthcare missions are one of the most strategic ways of getting desperately needed healthcare—and the good news of Jesus’ love—to all people everywhere.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

“A sweet young family left Syria four years ago and comes into our clinic nearly weekly. They had an apartment with a balcony, lovely furniture and pictures on the wall. They saw troops coming in, and within days, the balcony on their apartment was hit by a bomb. They knew they couldn’t safely stay any longer with their two small children. They threw some things together and fled—they didn’t even lock the door, as they thought they would only be gone a couple of weeks. Sadly, their entire city was nearly leveled and they crossed the border for refuge. They are always laughing and have such beautiful relationships with one another, but when I asked them about Syria they immediately teared up and told me their story. It was just below the surface. Every week I hear several tough stories like this. But when I have the privilege of hearing their hearts, holding them as they cry and helping them rally, I realize—beyond a shadow of a doubt—that my entire life has been for this very moment. All the joys, the suffering, the growth in my faith, and the struggle through medicine have all been to prepare me ‘for such a time as this...’ I never had such joy or sense of fulfillment as I do now. I remember when God came to me if I would come for Him—to love the people here, to care for them, to offer hope to them. He told me that our family would not only survive here, we would thrive. And we have.”

— A.T.*, MD, MPH, serving in the Middle East.

* Name changed or withheld for security reasons.

Bottom Photo Credit: UK Dept. for International Development

“After I finished dental school, the loans I had accrued would have made coming to the field without support impossible. My wife and I had felt led to work among unreached people groups in difficult-to-access areas for years. My becoming a dentist was a way we believed we could access these areas and heal physical needs as we proclaimed the gospel of Jesus. Thanks to our Medsend grant we’ve been able to do that.”

— James Hill*, DDS, North Africa

More than 40% of MedSend healthcare professionals now serve in “high security” areas that require identity protection.
**CALLED TO THE HOME FRONT**

“Educational debt has a significant impact on the ability of healthcare professionals who have a vision to serve in underserved settings in the U.S. to do so,” says Timothy Leaman, MD, site medical director at Esperanza Health Center in Philadelphia. “As students are leaving medical training with increasingly large educational debt, the ability to make student loan repayments without outside assistance—even with a very frugal lifestyle—at the salaries health centers like Esperanza are able to provide, is virtually impossible.” Dr. Leaman speaks from firsthand experience.

“When Jen and I felt God’s call to ministry at Esperanza, we knew that the salary they offered at the time was not sufficient to cover my student loans, even with us both working at the time and living quite modestly,” he explained. Fortunately, Dr. Leaman received a MedSend grant that paid his monthly educational loans until they were paid off in 2010. “MedSend’s grant played an enormous role in God’s provision for our family and for Esperanza, and helped facilitate our family being rooted and established in the city for the long term.”

Robert Reich, PA-C, MPAS, who directs care management at Esperanza and has served on MedSend’s board, also says MedSend made it possible for him to commit to serving there early in his career.

“When I started working at Esperanza, the clinic was struggling financially,” he recalls. “Our paychecks were often delayed. Having MedSend funding for my educational debt was critical in helping.”

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**BEACON OF HOPE ON STATEN ISLAND**

Immediately after Hurricane Sandy devastated New York City’s Staten Island in October 2012, Beacon Christian Community Health Center swung into action. Despite losing electricity, clinic staff used a borrowed generator and mobile van to set up a triage center to take the load off local emergency rooms.

“We provided care to the best of our ability as a way of showing that Christ is present, no matter what the circumstances, in both good times and bad,” said Dr. David Kim, Beacon’s CEO and cofounder.

This commitment to providing compassionate, whole-person care in their diverse, underserved community inspired Dr. Kim and his wife, Dr. Janet Kim, to found the clinic in 2006 when they were MedSend grant recipients. As the first faith-based and federally supported health center in New York State, Beacon now provides convenient, affordable services to more than 4,000 local residents who consider the health center a blessing to their community.

The Kims consider MedSend part of that blessing.

“When we were just starting the center, David and I could not take enough salary to work at Beacon and pay off our educational loans,” recalls Janet Kim, who serves as Beacon’s Chief Medical Officer and on MedSend’s board of directors. “If MedSend had not helped us, we would have had to take other jobs and might not have been able to commit to getting Beacon off the ground. Those early days were part of the foundation that has made the health center what it is today.”
“Training nationals in nursing gives them job potential, and improves their health and that of their communities as they go home and begin to work. The nursing program’s goal is to train nationals to be nurses and share Jesus with them in the process. It has had a huge impact so far, and I pray that God will allow me to impact students and patients for His glory as well.”
— James F.*, RN, Southwest Asia

**CALLED TO EQUIP**

More than 50% of American MedSend grant recipients who serve overseas are involved in strengthening and empowering national believers through healthcare professional training programs and community health education. This cost-effective strategy lets grant recipients multiply their efforts with the potential to reach millions. It promotes sustainability because ministry can continue under national leadership, even in areas that may close to North American Christians. It also promotes spiritual and economic health, as nationals can support themselves and care for each other without continued dependence on foreign healthcare professionals.

“As a consultant physician at Kijabe Hospital, I have the opportunity to treat patients of varying religious backgrounds and may share the gospel freely with them. In addition, I am in a position of teaching nationals who, after leaving Kijabe, will treat patients throughout East Africa. Helping these physicians and clinical officers grow in their medical knowledge and spiritual walk, while modeling Christ-centered care, is the primary aspect of the ministry given to us.”
— Rachel Hagler, MD, serving in Kenya

**CALLED TO THE NATIONS: MEDSEND NATIONALS PROGRAM**

Launched as a pilot in 2013, MedSend Nationals is now an official MedSend program that sponsors the advanced medical training of Christian national physicians in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. To do this, we partner with International Associates—organizations with established in-country Christ-centered medical residency programs that provide professional training, spiritual development and leadership preparation for those who have already graduated from medical school. The International Associates recruit, train and oversee men and women who possess the requisite intellectual ability, a deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ and desire to share it, and the moral character and spiritual commitment to serve in areas of great need in their own countries. All MedSend International Associates are U.S.-based organizations that provide a high degree of verification and accountability.

* Name changed or withheld for security reasons.
MedSend is truly strategic. No other ministry focuses exclusively on making it possible for career healthcare missionaries to serve effectively—or brings together so many other global healthcare missions organizations in this pursuit.

MedSend was born out of collaboration. Today, our founding group of 16 missions sending agencies known as MedSend Associates has grown to more than 55 MedSend Associates. We rely on them to provide screening, training, assignment, oversight and accountability for MedSend grant recipients. In addition, we now work with 7 International Associates that provide Christian advanced medical training programs for MedSend Nationals grant recipients.

From the start, we have sought ways to use MedSend’s unique position to facilitate interagency connections and improve the effectiveness of healthcare missions. In 2003, MedSend sponsored “Health and Wholeness for the 21st Century” in Thailand, a conference for missions leaders that presented more than 40 successful health development projects from around the world.

In 2014, MedSend instituted an annual Medical Missions Summit that brings together MedSend Associate executives and other leaders in global healthcare missions to address important issues. These popular meetings, jointly sponsored with CMDA (Christian Medical and Dental Associations), are attended by more than 60 representatives of MedSend Associates each year.

Also in 2014, MedSend sponsored the Global Healthcare Workers Needs Assessment (GHWNA) survey. GHWNA surveyed former and current MedSend grant recipients, as well as representatives of MedSend Associates, to evaluate the training and support of Christian cross-cultural healthcare workers. The survey results are being used to help missions leaders develop a stronger and more effective system for equipping and supporting healthcare missionaries.

**GHWNA Survey Results: How are we doing?**

This 2014 survey anonymously surveyed 116 currently serving and post-field MedSend grant recipients. Here are some of their responses about the importance of MedSend grants and the effectiveness of the ministry the grants make possible:

- As a cross-cultural healthcare worker, do you believe you are/were transforming the lives of individuals in the place where you work/worked? YES - 86% (currently serving); 80% (post-field)
- As a cross-cultural healthcare worker, do/did you have regular opportunities to share good news with people where you serve/served? YES - 85% (currently serving) and 80% (post-field)
- As a cross-cultural healthcare worker, do/did you believe your work has/had an impact in meeting the spiritual needs of people where you serve/served? YES - 91% (currently serving) and 77% (post-field)

**If I had not received a MedSend grant, my cross-cultural healthcare work would have:**

![Graph showing survey results](image)
“Surgeries are challenging, as the hospital frequently runs out of supplies like sterile linens, scalpels, sutures and antibiotics. The adult wards are also particularly difficult, as there are many patients with advanced cases of HIV, tuberculosis and cancer. With limited lab tests and medications, there are few options for diagnosis and treatment. Despite these challenges, I love the ministry I have to patients and hospital staff and have many ideas for process improvement and education I hope to implement in the years ahead.”

— Marc Carrigan, MD, a MedSend physician who serves at a district hospital in Uganda

“I serve at a clinic in one of the communities surrounding one of the largest garbage dumps in Central America. Many patients carry heavy burdens when they enter our clinic. There is no medicine that will help them, except for the healing love of Jesus. And while I feel like there is so little that I can do, it’s a privilege to be there, offer a listening ear, pray with patients and share Christ’s love with them, and just treat them with respect and offer them my time.”

— Amie Bockstahler, RN, MedSend nurse serving in Guatemala

We thank God for YOU!

After 25 years of global healthcare ministry, the physical and spiritual needs of the people our healthcare professionals minister to on the field are still great . . . even staggering.

But our God is greater! Even as He has called MedSend to new and greater challenges, He has provided passionate supporters like you. Your prayers and financial gifts have made it possible for MedSend healthcare professionals to bring healthcare—and the Good News of Jesus’ love—to people living with poverty and oppression in the U.S. and throughout the world. Inspired by the courage and compassion of MedSend’s founders, we pledge to persevere in extending the love of Christ through global healthcare missions around the world. We trust that He will continue to call faithful Christ-followers who are willing to go and to give.

Thank you for your partnership. We hope you share our excitement over what God has planned for the next 25 years!

2016 AT A GLANCE

TOTAL GRANTS PAID IN 2016: $1,471,269 ($154,900 for MedSend Nationals grant recipients). In 2016, 228 MedSend healthcare professionals were receiving funds and served in more than 75 countries, where they:

➤ Cared for more than 243,550 people.
➤ Personally shared about Christ with more than 27,600 people.
➤ Served on teams that shared about Christ with more than 175,508 people.
➤ Personally led more than 1,583 people to faith in Christ.
➤ Served on teams that led more than 2,024 people to faith in Christ.
➤ Personally discipled more than 1,198 people.
➤ Served on teams that discipled more than 3,919 people.
MedSend’s life-changing work would not be possible without the faithful support of donors like you. We are so thankful for your prayers, your partnership and your ongoing commitment to extending God's love through global healthcare missions.

To make a secure donation with your credit card, use the button below.

25th Anniversary 1992-2017

MedSend
EXTENDING GOD’S LOVE THROUGH GLOBAL HEALTHCARE